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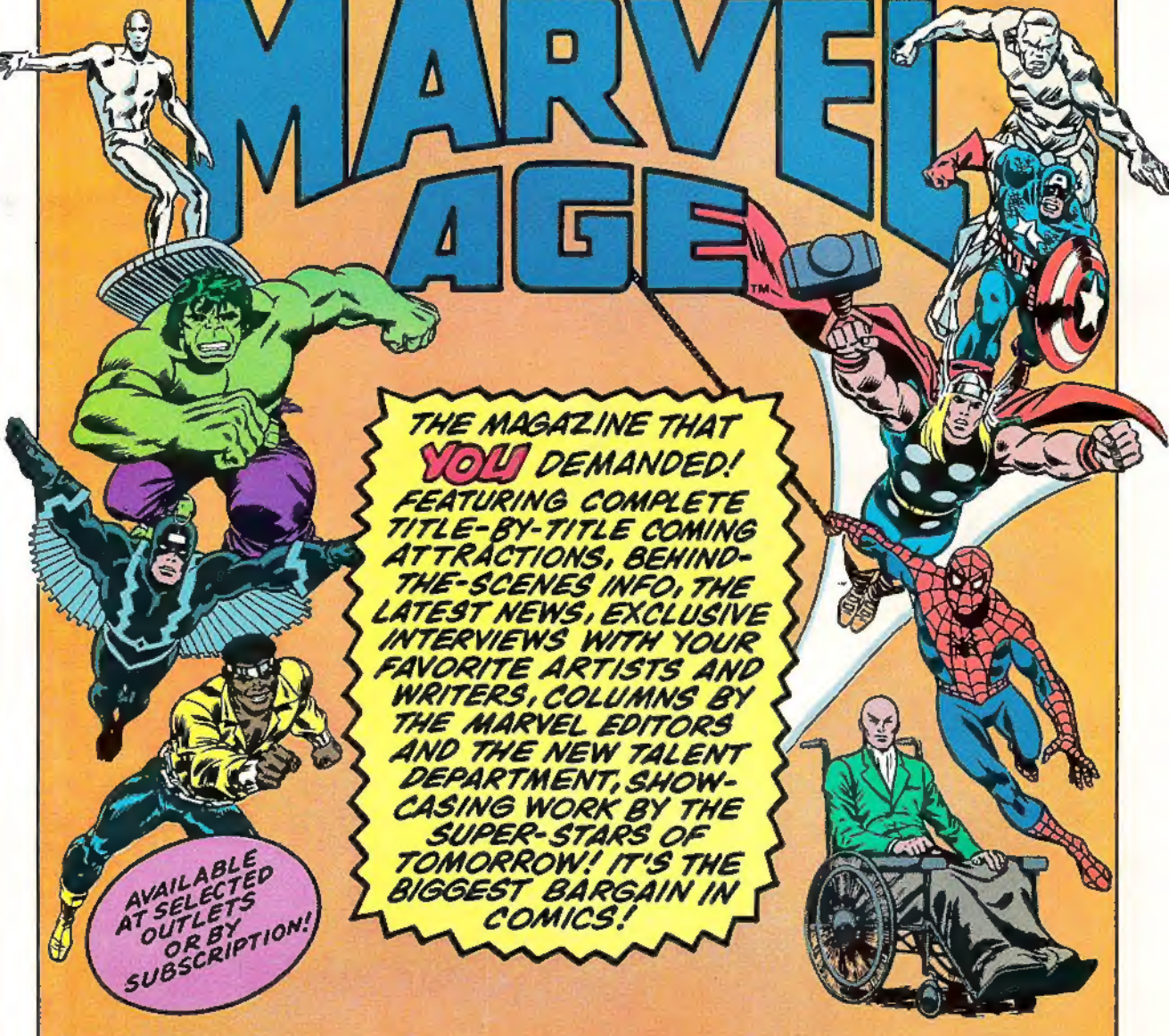

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EDITORIAL "It's Our Anniversary!" by Jim Salicrup

Back in 1966 the very first issue of **THE MERRY MARVEL MESSENGER** was published. It was mailed to all members in good standing of the **MMMS — the Merry Marvel Marching Society,** Marvel's first official fan club. It was four fun-filled black and white pages featuring coming attractions, trivia, Bullpen Biographies and news. As **Stan Lee** himself announced, "After many long hours of sleepless brain-searching, we decided the best way to print news is in — wouldja believe a newspaper?"

Then came **MARVELMANIA**, Marvel's second unabashed fan club which published **MARVELMANIA MAGAZINE!** It was delightfully edited by **Mark Evanier**, who besides being responsible for creating the Official Ranks of Marveldom (You remember, **R.F.O.** was a Real Frantic One, a buyer of at least 3 Marvel mags a month, **T.T.B.** was a Titanic True Believer, a divinely-inspired No-Prize winner, etc.) is the co-scripter of the **TARZAN SUPER SPECIAL** coming your way next year. **MARVELMANIA MAGAZINE** offered more inside info, never-before-seen Marvel artwork, many interesting and often funny articles about the House of Ideas and of course, coming attractions.

Marvel's most recent official fan club was called **FOOM** for **Fans Of Ol' Marvel** and not surprisingly published **FOOM MAGAZINE!** Editors of **FOOM** included at one time or another **Chris Claremont, Scott Edelman, David Anthony Kraft, Tony Isabella** and **Jim Steranko.** Even a guy named **Jim Salicrup** was involved in putting together this exciting magazine for **FOOM** members only.

Exactly one year ago, **MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE** was launched. For only 25¢, less than the original **MMMS** membership fee, Marvel began to publish the first all-news comics magazine in color dedicated exclusively to Marvel! Here we are a year later, bigger and better than ever! It all only goes to prove that Marvel's always made it a policy to maintain lines of direct communication with our many loyal followers. Marvel has always recognized that without your unflagging support, we'd be nothing! This and every issue of **MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE** is hereby dedicated to you! 'Nuff said!

Salicrup

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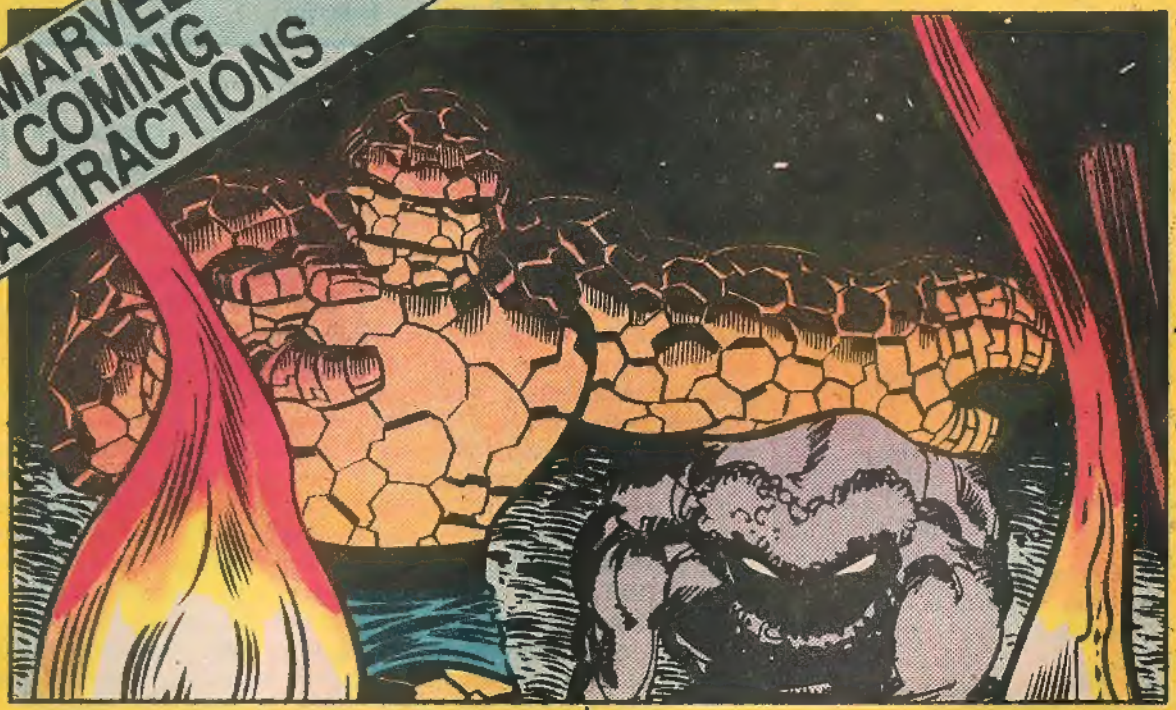
MARVEL COMING ATTRACTIONS

The Thing by Wilson and Sinnott



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Here is a complete checklist of what's happening in all the Marvel titles bearing a June cover date. A **Limited Series** is a title which will only run for a specific number of issues. A **Graphic Novel** is a trade paperback sized edition. A **Direct Sales** title is available only at selected outlets. **Shipping date** refers to the date the comics leave the printer. A word to the wise — please tell your comics specialty shop owner which titles you wish to buy as soon as possible! Marvel Comics sell out so fast that unless your comics shop owner knows which titles you want, you may not get them!

Titles shipping February 2, on sale February 28:

THE THING #12 — Looks like **Ben Grimm's** really gotten himself into it *this* time! Traveling through outer space light years from home, he comes upon a *new nemesis* — so powerful and deadly that the entire galaxy better watch out! It's "The Continuing Story of Rocky Grimm, Space Adventurer," written by **John Byrne**, penciled by **Ron Wilson**, and inked by **Joe Sinnott**!

DAREDEVIL #207 — If the *fight* of his life doesn't prove enough for D. D., he's still got to contend with the *love* of his life! It's a harried, heroic, hell-of-a-day for the super hero without sight, written by **Denny O'Neil**, penciled by **William Johnson**, and inked by **Danny Bulanadi**!

NEW MUTANTS #16 — While visiting **Frost's** school, **the New Mutants** find themselves facing a *new* super-powered team of mutants! Are they villains — or are they heroes? One thing's for certain — they're not your typical bunch of preppies! Written by **Chris Claremont**, penciled by **Sal Buscema**, and inked by **Tom Mandrake**!

KA-ZAR #32 — What will married life be like for **Shanna** and **Ka-Zar**? What they *fantasize* turns out to be far different from what they *find* — when **the Plunderer** has seized control of the Savage Land! And even *he* is not what he seems! "He Ain't Heavy . . . " is written by **Michael Carlin** and penciled by **Paul Neary**!

ALIEN LEGION #1 — All New! There's a threat to the very planet — a menace to the natural environment! And there's no one to stop it but **the Alien Legion**! Who are they? Just the most spectacular band of adventurers in the cosmos, that's who! An all-out origin issue, written by **Alan Zelenetz**, penciled by **Frank Cirocco**, and inked by **Terry Austin**! Be there! 75¢. High quality Mando stock. An Epic comic. (This sensational premiere issue has been rescheduled to appear this month!)

KITTY PRYDE AND WOLVERINE (Limited Series) #2 — We could tell you the shocking secret of **Kitty Pryde's** father — we could describe the countless perils she goes through to find out — but we'll just say "Enter: the Wolverine!" Written by **Chris Claremont**, penciled and inked by **Al Milgrom**! 'Nuff said!

SIX FROM SIRIUS (Limited Series) #2 — The saga continues! **Jocosa Lone**, leader of the most outlandish troupe of all, encounters what can only be called . . . **Phadra**! Written by **Doug Moench** and lavishly drawn in full-color by **Paul Gulacy**! Perhaps this acclaimed teams's greatest work ever! From the Epic Comics Line! $1.50. 32 pp. High quality Hudson stock.

Paul Smith's Dr. Strange

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DR. STRANGE SPECIAL EDITION #4 — Reprinting these classic original stories: "Beware! Dormammu Is Watching!", "The Pincers of Power," and "Let There Be Victory," all by **Stan Lee** and **Steve Ditko**! Plus all-new full-color pin-ups by **Doctor Strange's** greatest artists, and an all-new wraparound cover by **John Byrne** and **Al Milgrom**! $1.50. High quality Hudson stock. Direct Sales Only.

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #253 — **Spidey's** caught in the middle — and there's nowhere to turn! On one side, corruption and deceit! On the other side — **Spider-Man's** newest enemy, **The Rose**! And, to top it all off, introducing . . . **Wendy Thornwood**! "By Myself Betrayed" is written by **Tom DeFalco**, penciled by **Rick Leonardi**, and inked by **Klaus Janson**!

CAPTAIN AMERICA #294 — "The Measure of a Man!" Can **Cap** survive the onslaught when **The Slayer** comes to town? And what will be the outcome when **Steve Rogers** tells **Bernie** the *truth* of how he feels about her? Thrills, drama, and excitement starring the star-spangled avenger by writer **J. M. DeMatteis**, and penciler **Paul Neary**! And say "hello" to inker **Ed Barreto**!

THOR #344 — **Balder the Brave! Balder the Bold!** You know him — you've seen him fight — but you've never seen him like *this*! Neither has **Thor** — and Asgard will never be the same! All the might and majesty of the gods themselves, written, penciled, and inked by **Walt Simonson**.

INDIANA JONES #18 — At last! The devastating secret of **Abner Ravenwood** revealed! But not before **Indy** and **Marion** travel through a mystic city! Is it paradise . . . or is it certain death? High adventure and spine tingling suspense, courtesy of writer **David Michelinie**, penciler **Herb Trimpe**, and inker **Vince Colletta**!

SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #100 — How much trouble can one gold figurine get our barbarian into? Plenty — in this special Anniversary issue he's pursued by the fiercest band of savage raiders you've ever seen! Where it takes him — whom he meets — and whether he survives — only scripter **Michael Fleisher** and plotter-and-penciler **John Buscema** know! $1.50. A Marvel Magazine.

DR. STRANGE #65 — It's tough enough for **Dr. Stephen Strange** to protect innocent bystanders from mystical mayhem — but now he has to protect himself! Perhaps the most unusual foe ever — and a stunning climax that will numb your nerve-endings! "Charlatan" is written by **Roger Stern**, and penciled and inked by **Paul Smith**!

U.S. 1 (Limited Series) #10 — Last issue, we had a shocking revelation! This issue — the consequences! The *entire* Shortstop crew must face the awesome menace of **the Highwaymen**! **Mary McGill, the Alien**, and a cast of hundreds are on hand, as we truck on down to the epic developments *next* issue! Written by **Al Milgrom**, penciled by **Frank Springer**, and inked by **Mike Esposito**!

The X-Men by **Romita, Jr.** and **Green**.

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Titles shipping February 21, on sale March 13:

INCREDIBLE HULK #296 — Guest starring the greatest of the spaceknights! That's right — ever wonder what would happen if **Rom** turned his energy analyzer on **the Hulk**? And that isn't all! 'Cause this issue, we find out about *another* Hulk . . . and the deadly secret of **Bruce Banner's** experiments! Too much for ya? Writer **Bill Mantlo**, penciler **Sal Buscema**, and inker **Gerry Talaoc** pulled out all the stops!

AVENGERS #244 — It's a great month for **Rom** fans! **The Avengers** face the eerie, insidious menace of the **Dire Wraiths** . . . and what chance do Earth's Mightiest Heroes have against an entire alien swarm? And there's even more — because this month's tale is really *two* stories in *one*, brought to you by **Roger Stern**, writer, **Al Milgrom** and **Carmine Infantino**, pencilers, and **Joe Sinnott**, inker!

CONAN #159 — Special surprise issue! If **Conan** hasn't faced danger *before*, he does *now* . . . against a menace so macabre, it'll make your skin crawl! "When a Woman Hates" is plotted, penciled and inked by Big **John Buscema**! If there's only one sword-and-sorcery color comic you buy this month — *this must be it*!

MARVEL TALES #164 — Who is "The Man in the Crime Master's Mask?" You'll find out — when you read this classic story from **SPIDER-MAN** #26, re-presented in all its glory, by **Stan Lee** and **Steve Ditko**!

X-MEN #182 — Unbelievable! This one's got more dramatic ins-and-outs than we can count! You'll want to be there every second, when **Rogue** finds herself attracted to the notorious **Colonel Rossi — Carol Danver's** former love! What's the connection? The newest **X-Man** must know — but the truth may be too terrible to bear! Written by **Chris Claremont**, penciled by **John Romita Jr.**, and inked by **Dan Green**!

ROM #55 — Why must **Rom** destroy innocent people? Could it have something to do with the latest, most diabolical plan of the **Dire Wraiths**? It must — but it can't! Guest starring **Rick Jones**, facing the challenge of his life! "The Enemy Within" is written by **Bill Mantlo**, penciled by **Sal Buscema**, and inked by **Mel Candido**! Full-color cover by **Bill Sienkiewicz**!

POWER MAN AND IRON FIST #106 — **Luke Cage** — victim of an assassination attempt! If you're wondering how you can assassinate a hero with bulletproof skin, then you must not have met his newest foe! They have the means — and they're nothing short of the most hideous menace in history! Even **Danny Rand** may not be able to help! Written by **Scot Lobdell**, penciled by **Greg LaRocque**, and inked by **Andy Mushynsky**.

G. I. JOE #24 — Is there a connection between **Snake Eyes** and the newest, most dangerous Ninja of them all? Introducing . . . **Stormshadow**! He's out for blood, and he's equipped with *The Claw*! And that's the least of **the Joes'** worries, when **the Cobra Commander** escapes! If that's not enough for you, this issue of **G. I. JOE** will be featured in an upcoming television commercial! Real American Action written by **Larry Hama** and penciled by **Mike Vosburg**!

MARVEL GRAPHIC NOVEL #11 — **HEARTBURST!** — Written and drawn by **Rick Veitch**, **HEARTBURST** is an outer space love story — with commercial interruptions! Meet **Sunoco Firestone**, protagonist on a planet oppressed by ancient television broadcasts from Earth! Meet his love — a native girl named **Maia**! See their struggle against all odds — and all sponsors! 48 pp. Full color. Trade paperback. $4.95. (This venture into the bizarre realm of science-fiction imagination has been rescheduled for this month!)

MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE #15 — It's everything you've ever wanted in a Marvel Magazine! It's news, it's interviews, it's artwork, it's New Talent! The only thing **MARVEL AGE** doesn't do is take out the trash — and we're working on it! Direct Sales Only.

The F.F.'s new member, **the She-Hulk**, drawn by **Byrne**

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Titles shipping **February 28**, on sale **March 20**:

FANTASTIC FOUR #267 — **Reed Richards** goes it alone — against **Doctor Octopus**! If you're wondering why the ever-elastic **Mister Fantastic** must battle the multi-limbed menace, we'll give you a hint . . . **Reed** needs **Doc Ock's** *help*! Why? What will be the outcome? You'll have to read it to find out! Written, penciled, and inked by **John Byrne**!

MARVEL TEAM-UP #142 — Weird things are happening! The world's leaders are being abducted to an unknown dimension — and only **Spider-Man** and the sensational new **Captain Marvel** are around to find out *why* — and how to stop it! Two of Marvel's mightiest heroes up to their necks in action! And what is . . . **the Windstone**? A thriller written by **David Michelinie**, penciled by **Greg LaRocque** and inked by **Mike Esposito**!

IRON MAN #183 — Here's a question we've never asked — what happens in a man's life *after* a fateful turning point? **Tony Stark** perseveres — against obstacles which can crush his very soul! And it's still *nothing* compared to what **Iron Man** has to face! The ultimate in illustrated adventure, written by **Denny O'Neil**, penciled by **Luke McDonnell**, and inked by **Steve Mitchell**!

PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #91 — He's been through it all! Villains, heartbreaks, crises — and he keeps coming back for more! But are we talking about **Spidey** — or this issue's surprise villain — or a top-secret guest star! We won't tell! Written and penciled by **Al Milgrom**, and inked by **Jim Mooney**.

THE NEW DEFENDERS #132 — A grizzled old prospector, barely alive, comes to **the Angel's** doorstep for help! What possible problem could *he* pose? When **the New Defenders** let him in, the results are unexpected, to say the least! "The Phantom of Gamma Ray Flats" is a story that should . . . *grow* on you, and it's penciled by **Don Perlin** and inked by **Kim DeMulder**! And welcome aboard writer **Peter B. Gillis**!

STAR WARS #84 — Bet you didn't know that **Chewbacca** had a wife and family! But he may never get to see them again — when bloodthirsty bounty-hunters attack him on his way back to the **Wookiee** planet! And if **Lando** and **Han** can't help — who can? Written by **Jo Duffy**, penciled by **Ron Frenz**, and inked by **Tom Palmer**! Remember, only Marvel offers these exciting post-**Jedi** adventures!

ALPHA FLIGHT #11 — When **John Byrne** writes, pencils, and inks the exploits of Canada's greatest superteam, he doesn't kid around! For instance — *this* month's shocker! You'll see a dramatic turning point — and the beginnings of *Omega Flight*! And **John** made this one a *full-length* story, to boot!

HERCULES (Limited Series) #4 — The conclusion! Will **Hercules** kill his own father to save his own life? A cataclysmic final battle set against the majesty of Olympus! "A Pearl of Great Price" is written, penciled, and inked by **Bob Layton**!

WHAT IF #45 — "What If the Hulk Went Berserk?" In this tale of an alternate reality, **Bruce Banner** fails to save **Rick Jones** from the gamma-ray explosion that created **the Hulk**! How does this cause **the Hulk** to become a murderous killing machine? Written by **Peter B. Gillis**, penciled by **Ron Wilson**, and guest-starring **the Fantastic Four**, **Thor**, and the original **Iron Man**! 48 pp. $1.00. (We're not trying to pull a fast one! It's just that this epic **Hulk** tale has been rescheduled *again*! It'll appear this month — or we'll eat our gamma-bombarded beanies!)

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST (Limited Series) #2 — The love between **the Dazzler** and **the Beast** grows! But the most bizarre assortment of mutant misfits may just come between them! Talk about stormy relationships — wait'll you read "Heartbreak Hotel," written by **Ann Nocenti**, penciled by **Don Perlin**, and inked by **Kim DeMulder**! And then **Doctor Doom** has to show up — it's too much!

Note: The information that appears in "Coming Attractions" is as complete and accurate as we can manage. Occasionally changes are made after this column is put together. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause! ●

NEWSWATCH

More items to add to your Most Wanted List!

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ITEM! Two more terrific trade-paperback editions of Marvel's greatest super hero exploits are coming your way! The first stars **the X-Men**, and it reprints the entire, legendary *Phoenix saga* from start to finish! Written by **Chris Claremont** and drawn by **John Byrne** and **Terry Austin**, this storyline helped establish **X-MEN** as *the* fan favorite of the eighties — and now it's available in one beautiful book! The second trade paperback stars **Iron Man**, re-presenting the complete story of **Tony Stark's** battle with alcoholism. National media attention has focused on Marvel's realistic handling of this topic. Now read the controversial epic, preserved in one handsome volume. These trade paperbacks will be available in Direct Sales Outlets and bookstores, through the courtesy of **Crown Books**. **X-MEN** ships March 13, and **IRON MAN** ships April 10. Each book lists at $5.95. They're a worthwhile addition to any collection!

ITEM! We've got good news, and we've got . . . er, not-so-good news! The good news is that **MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE** has become a huge success — and it's going to Mando paper! That's right — you'll now be able to read this deathless prose printed on a heavier, whiter stock! We're excited about the move, because it means that we can showcase more and more *artwork*, and know that it will reproduce more clearly, more brilliantly and boldly! It also means that copies of **MARVEL AGE** will last longer —Smithsonian Institution take note! The not-so-good news is that, because of the expenses incurred, we've got to raise our cover price to 35¢. But **MARVEL AGE** will continue to be the biggest bargain of all time — because now that we're a bona fide hit, we're gonna give you more of what you want — and better! Stick around for the new **MARVEL AGE**, starting with issue #14!

ITEM! Check out the cover of **FANTASTIC FOUR** #263! It boasts a spanking new *logo*, designed by **the F. F.'s** own **John Byrne!** Feast your keenest artistic and critical eye on the new look — hope you like it as much as we do!

ITEM! We just heard that the new **TARZAN** movie has been delayed, and will now be released around Easter time, 1984. So, to stay coordinated with the movie studio's plans, Marvel has pushed back the release of the **TARZAN Super Special** and our two-issue **TARZAN Limited Series**. No firm dates yet. We'll letcha know!

ITEM! Here are a couple of important schedule changes. Listen up! Issue #1 of the **KITTY PRYDE AND WOLVERINE Limited Series** will now ship February 7, instead of January 3. Each subsequent issue will ship the first week of each month thereafter! Next, **THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE** #15, the "Book of Weapons," will now ship January 3.

Ok! Let's roll! And . . . hey! Let's be *careful* out there!

BEHIND THE LINES

Carl Potts introduces **Jim Massara.**

Howdy,

The Rubik's Cube that is the Marvel editorial staff shifts again! This time it's the assistant editors doing the office-jumping. **Louise Jones**' assistant, **Eliot Brown**, has now gone to work with Executive Editor **Tom DeFalco** (deja vu?). Filling the void in **Louise's** office is my now-former assistant, **Ann Nocenti**. Coming into my office to take over for **Ann** is new staffer **Jim Massara**. I figure **Jim** knows more about himself than anyone else does, so I'm going to let him tell you a bit about himself.

— **Carl**

Hi. I'm **Jim Massara, Carl Potts'** new assistant and the new kid in the Bullpen. I still can't quite believe I made it here, but I did — and it's a great feeling.

I'm 24, and until recently was a student at the University of Georgia in Athens. My major was journalism — and I wrote a good bit for the campus newspaper, *The Red and Black* — but my passion was cartooning, the funny animal stuff. While at Georgia I drew and co-wrote (with **Ed Thomas**, who would never forgive me if I didn't mention his name) a daily comic strip for the paper. I also did numerous spot illustrations on my own.

I loved it. But my journalism teachers couldn't have cared less. One instructor, who had worked for a national sports magazine and had talked with **LeRoy Neiman** a few times, advised me to concentrate on writing and quit drawing — apparently because my stuff didn't look like **Neiman's**! It was depressing.

In fact, I quit cartooning for a few months and nearly resigned myself to working in newspapers the rest of my life. What stopped me was encouragement from friends at the paper, particularly **Ed**. He was the one who told me to start showing up at comic cons. It was at one of those cons last summer in Atlanta that I met **Carol Kalish**, who suggested I send some of my work to **Jim Shooter**. He passed my samples and resume along to **Carl**, who was looking for an assistant at the time — and that's how I ended up here.

Influences, favorites? Well, I always liked **Mort Walker** and **Dik Brown**, and I'm told my stuff looks like theirs at times. I love the original Kurtzman-edited **MAD**, and particularly the work of **Jack Davis**, another Georgia alumnus. My favorite comic book is **THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN**, and my favorite syndicated strips are "Bloom County" by **Berke Breathed** and "Dick Tracy" by **Collins** and **Locher**. And my favorite editorial cartoonist is either **Jeff MacNelly** or **Mike Peters**, depending on my mood at the time.

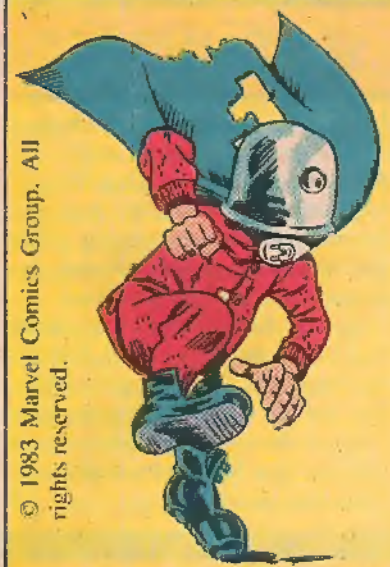
New York City is not an easy place to get used to. It's sure not Atlanta. But Marvel is a great place to work. The people here are friendly and patient with a newcomer like me, and I learn a little more every day. I hope I'll be around a while. ●

The Official Marvel Comics Personnel Pronunciation Guide

We've received so many inquiries about how to pronounce the following names that this list was inevitable! If we've left any names out that you're unsure about, let us know!

Byrne — burn
Buscema — byoo-SEM-ma
Budiansky — boo-dee-ANN-skee
Cowan — COW-en
DeMatteis — de-MAT-is
DeMulder — de-MULL-der
DeNatale — dee-na-TAL-eee
Fedunewicz — fe-DUN-a-wits
Giacoia — jee-a-COY-a
Guice — gice
Gulacy — goo-LAY-see
Janson — JON-sen
Kuramoto — cure-ra-MOE-toe
Macchio — MA-kee-o
Moench — mench
Massara — ma-SAR-a
Nocenti — no-SEN-tee
Orzechowski — or-ze-COW-skee
Roussos — ROO-sose
Salicrup — SAL-i-krupp
Sinnott — SIN-et
Sienkiewicz — sin-KEV-ich
Talaoc — ta-LAY-ock
Trimpe — TRIM-pee
Villamonte — vil-a-MON-tee
Vosburg — VOS-burg
Wiacek — WY-a-check
Zalme — ZAL-mee
Zelenetz — ZEL-e-nitz

Coming Soon: The Official Marvel Comics' Character's Pronunciation Guide! ●



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Some Marvel characters are so overwhelmingly popular that they star in several magnificent titles every month! Some of our super-powered stars proudly appear in their own books, with frequent guest appearances in other characters' titles! Still others regularly appear as part of a super-team, or occasionally receive a Limited Series of their own. But there's only *one* mighty Marvel mainstay who, though he has been in the Marvel Universe for lo, these many years, appears in but one regular spot — the calamitous cover corner-symbol for this very magazine! Yes, that's right — none other than the way-out wonder himself, the frantic, frenzied **Forbush-Man**! Who is he? What's the awe-inspiring origin of the redoubtable Honest **Irving Forbush**? Gladja asked! Here, re-presented by popular demand in the very words of our fearless leader, is the inside story! Take it away, **Stan** . . . !

STAN'S SOAPBOX

Okay, gang — the first thing you've gotta do is make sure you're alone in your room. Now, lock the doors and windows. What you are about to read is top secret and for the eyes of True Believers only. If this information were (perish forbid!) to fall into the hands of a competitive comic book company (not that we care to admit we *have* any competition), the very foundations of literature as we know it would assuredly shrivel and crumble before your awestriken eyes! Therefore, remember you this — for what thou art to peruse, thou art hereby pledged to deepest secrecy, in the hallowed name of Marveldom Assembled!

And now that we're done with the obligatory ceremonial trappings, let us proceed to the heart of the matter, namely — the exposé of the century — the revelation of the age — the unvarnished truth about the world's most famous non-entity — Honest **Irving Forbush**! Oh, how I wish this were but a script for one of our mags, so that I could title it "If This Be Forbush!" Or, "There Shall Come a Forbush!" Or perhaps, "Let There Be Forbush!" Well, you get the idea.

Years ago, about the time that **MAD** magazine was a'borning, yours truly produced a similar publication called **SNAFU**. Since the **SATURDAY EVENING POST**, in those days, had a line on the cover which read "Founded by Benjamin Franklin," it occured to me that **SNAFU** could do no less than have a similar line on its contents page. But whose name would I use? Well, after many sleepless nights I came up with the phrase "Founded by Irving Forbush." Why Irving Forbush? I've absolutely no idea! I never knew anyone with that name, nor particularly wanted to. It just had the right sound to me. Incidentally, wanting to go the **POST** one better, I added, on the other side of the contents column, the line "Losted by his cousin, Melvin Forbush," or some such name —it's hard to remember after all that time.

Anyway, years later when mighty Marvel was just beginning to conquer the entire literary universe, I though 'twould be fun to bring back good ol' Irv and give him the fame and prominence he so richly deserved. So there you have it. A fantastically meaningful object lesson in how to create something out of nothing and keep it the same way! And, if any of you can make sense out of the foregoing, then consider thyself thricely No-Prized! As for me, I'm off to have a hoedown with the **Hulk**!

Excelsior!

Stan

P.S. No! No! No! It isn't true that **Forbush** is **Darth Vader** spelled sideways. ●

MARVEL'S TOP TEN

by Jim Salicrup

Here's the ten best-selling titles Marvel published back in March 1983:

1 — X-MEN #167

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2 — FANTASTIC FOUR #252
3 — AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #238
4 — AVENGERS #229
5 — DAREDEVIL #192
6 — PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #76
7 — CONAN #144
8 — THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE #3
9 — MARVEL TEAM-UP #127
10 — INCREDIBLE HULK #281

THE MARVEL HANDBOOK knocked **IRON MAN** off the Top Ten this month and both **TEAM-UP** and **HULK** fell a notch, otherwise this list is identical to last month's. Be here next month as we continue to chronicle Marvel's best-selling books!

ARE YOU READY FOR MARVEL SUPER HEROES™ SECRET WARS™

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by **Mark Lerer**

The good guys: **Spider-Man. Hulk. Mister Fantastic. The Human Torch. The Thing. Captain America. Thor. She-Hulk. Wasp. Captain Marvel. Iron Man. Hawkeye. Nightcrawler. Colossus. Cyclops. Professor Charles Xavier. Storm. Wolverine. Rogue. Lockheed the Dragon. Spider-Woman.**

The bad guys: **Doctor Doom. Galactus. Kang. Doctor Octopus. Magneto. Ultron. Titanium Man. The Lizard. The Wrecker. Thunderball. Piledriver. Bulldozer. Enchantress. Absorbing Man. Volcana. Klaw. Molecule Man.**

The mystery: **The Beyonder.**

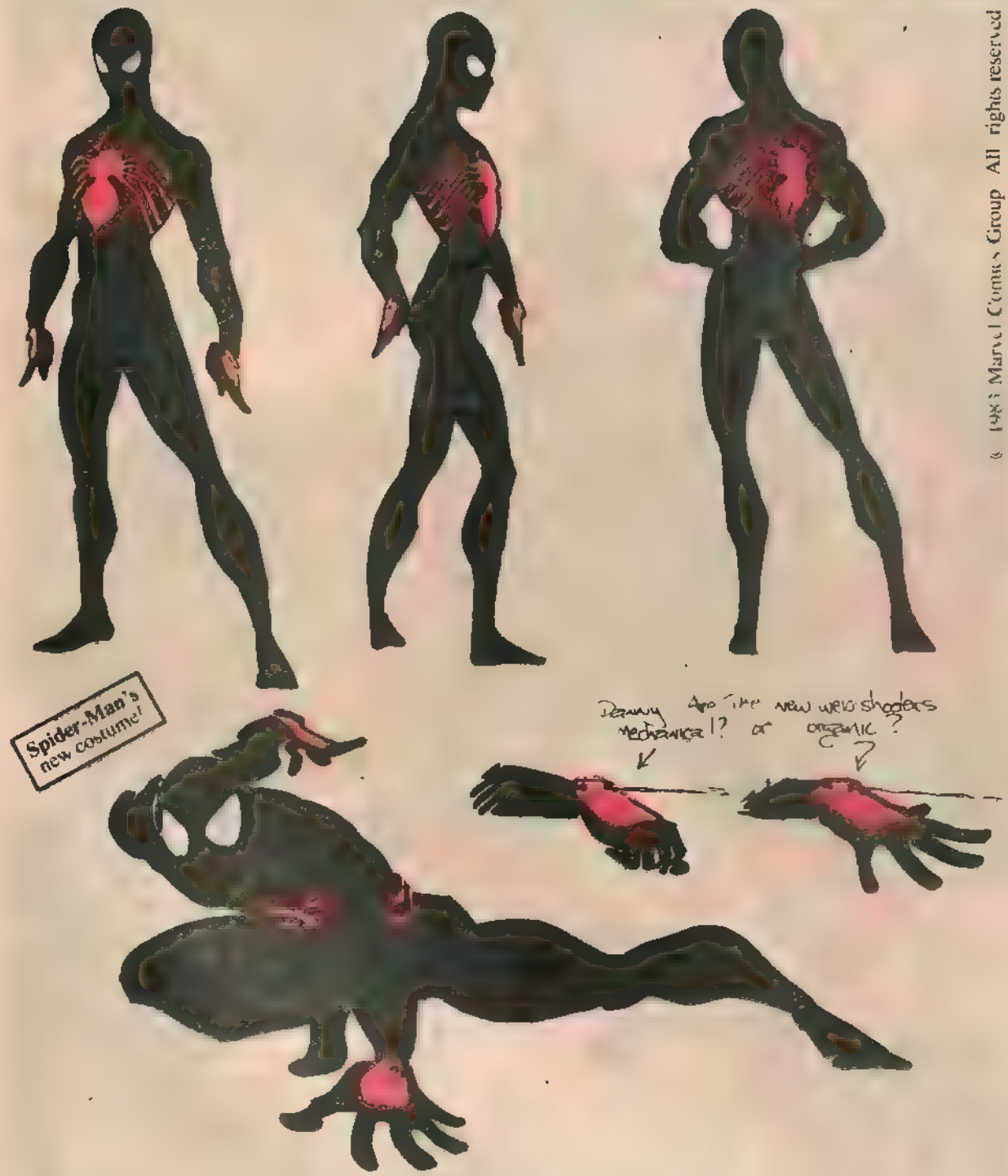
A Marvel Comic is more than a story. It's part of a mythos, a cosmos-spanning legend. Presenting the most cataclysmic development in the Marvel Universe since the origin of **the Fantastic Four! MARVEL SUPER HEROES: THE SECRET WARS**, itself, is more than a story – it's the twelve-part saga you've waited all of your comics-reading career to see!

You might call **THE SECRET**

WARS the quintessential Marvel Epic. Dedicated fans and casual readers alike always enjoy when more than one Marvel superstar appears in a gigantic adventure. The bigger the occasion, the greater the fascination. We get several dozen letters every week demanding a drama so cosmic that it involved a team-up of all the Marvel superstars, both hero and villain. To actually execute such a triumph of comic literature, though, takes months of planning. Weaving the intricate legendry of the Marvel canon became a full-time occupation for Editor **Tom DeFalco** and Writer **Jim Shooter**

For **THE SECRET WARS** is *more* than a team-up. This monumental adventure figures importantly in the continuity of of nearly every single Marvel title. Events in this maxi series will permanently and shockingly alter the histories of everyone from **Captain America** to **the X-Men** to **Spider-Man**! No matter who your favorite Marvel hero or villain is, you'll find yourself absorbed in **THE SECRET WARS** to stay on top of the catastrophic changes in that superstar's life!

What threat could bring over thirty super champions together into one consequential battle? Who, or what, is **the Beyonder**? Marvel's greatest super-beings have encountered a host of extraordinary personages in their remarkable careers. But what could possibly wound **the Hulk**, **the Fantastic Four** to change its membership, or make **Spider-Man** put on a new costume? **Shooter** tells us that these dramatic effects are *nothing* compared with the uncanny turbulence **the Beyonder** can cause! But, with no idea what the **Beyonder** wants, we can only *imagine* its scope



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and significance

Of course, when heroes and villains experience the challenge of cataclysmic confrontation, they change as people. While following **THE SECRET WARS**, you'll witness great provocations of character. For example, we all smiled when **Hawkeye** recently married after a life of bachelorhood. But now, a *new* temptation threatens his security and love! How will he react? Or consider **Wolverine**. Ever wonder what he'd be like while engaged in the ultimate battle? As an **X-Man**, he's always faced villains with death-defying confidence. Now he truly believes that he's fighting his last fight! **Logan's** behavior may surprise you! Another fascinating turn comes when **Doctor Doom** appears. Readers of **the Fantastic Four** know that **Doom** is dead — but to participate in the secret wars, **Doom** finds himself restored to life! What would victory mean, if to return to his natural realm means to die again? The most awesome of Earth's villains faces dark and terrible questions. To further engage your curiosity, think of **Thor!** At first, the son of **Odin** is irritated and angry at the nuisance who pulls him away from his day-to-day affairs. What event could possibly convince the Thunder God of this new battle's importance? When the mightiest Asgardian of all comes to believe that he is fighting his greatest battle, that his new challenge is the

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fight he was born to fight — the epic conflagration takes on the significance of the universe itself!

Once you begin the first chapter of **THE SECRET WARS**, you'll find yourself entranced, unable to shake the compelling drama until it has reached its conclusion. 1984 will be the pinnacle year for Marvel Comics. The year of **MARVEL SUPER HEROES: THE SECRET WARS** may just be the time of *your* life as well ●

LOOKING BACK AT MARVEL AGE™

Who is the Hobgoblin?

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Hi. I'm **Mark Lerer**, one of the guys who help **Jim Salicrup** put **MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE** together! **Jim** and I were sitting around the Marvel Bullpen the other day, chewing the fat. We were talking about how everything at Marvel always seems to be changing — you know, new projects always being started, new directions being taken on more established titles, personnel being promoted all the time. Everything around here is always moving ahead, getting more exciting! **Jim** of course agreed with my highly profound observation

Hold on there, *Lerer*! *Jim Salicrup* here. I believe it was *I* who offered the profound observation, back in my first editorial for *MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE*! I remember saying, "If there's one thing you can count on from mixed-up Marvel, it's change."

I remember that! That was only six short months ago! When you consider how many changes have gone down here at the House of Ideas since then, it seems like such a long time!

When you consider how difficult it is to put up with *you*, *Lerer*, it seems like an eternity!

I'll ignore that remark, **Jimbo**! Anyway, like I started out to say before. Marvel's always in a state of flux — and that's why **MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE** exists. This little magazine is sort of a chronicle of all the activity that goes on here. And this month, **MARVEL AGE** is a year old! **Jim** and I thought it would be a perfect occasion to go back and look at all that's happened in the last year, and bring you up to date on many of the special events that we've reported along the way! Let's journey back, then, through the months, to **MARVEL AGE** #1.

Ok, Mark! *MARVEL AGE* sure looked different from the way it does today. That's because it was edited by *Carol Kalish*, our direct

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The Black Panther by Denys Cowan and Sam De La Rosa

sales manager. *Carol* conceived *MARVEL AGE* as a direct hotline to the fans. As she said at the end of her first editorial, "You let us know what you want, and we'll do the best we can to give it to you." That, of course, has remained our policy ever since.

Hey, Jim! Who was that hot-lookin' mama whose photograph accompanied Carol's editorial?

Why, that was *Carol* herself, Mark!

Funny, she bears a striking resemblance to Jean Harlowe!

Anyway, moving right along. Back in that first issue, we reported on a brand new adventure title to be called *CRYSTAR*! Back then, the creative team was *Mary Jo Duffy*, writer, *Brett Blevins*, penciler, and *Vince Colletta*, inker. To show you how much things have changed, the book is now penciled by *Ricardo Villamonte* and inked by *Dave Simons*. In the past year, not only has the *CRYSTAR* comic itself become a big hit, but the *toys* based on the characters have become national top-sellers, too!

Also in that landmark premiere issue, Peter Sanderson gave us the inside view on the creation of THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE. Since that time, the Handbook has completed its full run, and become an invaluable part of every comic fan's library. And, true to his word, editor Mark Gruenwald and his staff are making plans to assemble an update on many facets of the Marvel Universe which have changed since the initial run was published!

Also back in issue #1, we ran a list of which-editors-were-doing-what projects. But the changes involved in *that* particular kettle of fish are so many, that we should leave that for the end of the article.

Sure, Jim. If nothing else, it's a sneaky way of getting people to *read* this article all the way to the end!

Smart Aleck!

MARVEL AGE #2 featured the premiere of John Byrne's ALPHA FLIGHT! We also mentioned half a dozen new Limited Series that came into being with the appointment of Bob Budiansky as full-time editor including BEAUTY AND THE BEAST (under its original title of DAZZLER AND THE BEAST), X-MEN / MICRONAUTS, HERCULES, and JACK OF HEARTS. One of the Limited Series, BLACK PANTHER, has since been delayed. Neil Patterson surveyed the complexities of the sword and sorcery genre in his article "Life Among the Barbarians." *More* on barbarian life, and the newest changes of direction for Conan and company, are covered in next month's MARVEL AGE, so we won't go into them here.

Marvel's stable of editors signed into print with issue #2, with the premiere of "Behind the Lines." This feature was started as a chance to let the editors talk about what projects interested *them* most, and the projects they talked about in the very first "Behind the Lines" have all come to take some highly interesting turns! For instance, *Mark Gruenwald* wrote about the cancellation of *SPIDER-WOMAN*, but *Spider-Woman's* career has re-emerged dramatically *THE AVENGERS*! *Archie Goodwin* wrote about the upcoming *Frankenstein* edition illustrated by *Berni Wrightson*, and that very volume goes on sale this season!

We should mention right here and now, too, Jim, that Ralph Macchio *still* hates New York!

Issue #3 spotlighted *Butch Guice*, who had just then taken over penciling *MICRONAUTS* from *Michael Golden*! *Peter Sanderson* discussed the creation of the Epic Comics Line, which now boasts *four* titles: *DREADSTAR*, *COYOTE*, *THE ALIEN LEGION*, and the newest sensation, *SIX FROM SIRIUS*! *DREADSTAR* is still being written and drawn by *Jim Starlin* —

— who's also going to be inking it himself once again!

— don't interrupt me! *COYOTE* will soon be drawn by *Charles Truog*, *ALIEN LEGION* is by *Zelenetz* and *Cirocco*, and *SIX FROM SIRIUS* reunites *Doug Moench* and *Paul Gulacy* for outer-space adventure! The "Newswatch" section for that issue announced that some *X-MEN* fans sent *Wolverine* and *Mariko* a toaster for their wedding! As you

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know, the gift *may* have been premature . . . and the relationship between *Logan* and his lady still hasn't been fully straightened out! Finally, the band called *the Burning Sensations*, whom editor *Larry Hama* was reported running around with, is not the same band you may have read about elsewhere. *Larry's* band is now in the process of coming up with a new [redacted]

Let's move on to MARVEL AGE #4!

Let's go to lunch first!

Can't you think of anything besides your stomach? Well, while **Salicrap's** chowing down, I'll update some of the many events that made their way into the world when MARVEL AGE #4 came out. For instance, the Marvel / DC Presents collaboration starring the Avengers and the Justice League is on hiatus. The SPIDER-MAN Graphic Novel is in the works. Bob Layton's HERCULES Limited Series was so successful that a second one is on the stands at this very moment!

I'm back!

That was quick!

Well, I'm a hard working and dedicated editor! I don't have time for those ritzy three-martini lunches that are so popular among today's corporate set! So, while I finish the last few bites of my tuna sandwich, *Mark*, let's move on to issue #5 of *MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE*! Remember that one?

You bet I do! That was the first issue where I wrote an article for this h'l publication! The occasion was the changing of Marvel's cover masthead to the bolder, cleaner look we employ today! It was really exciting for me, because I was so charged up about the extra room that the new masthead would provide for the artwork! That issue, **Steve Riggenberg** wrote about **the Hobgoblin** — and we *still* don't know his true identity!

But it was with issue #6 that *MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE* really took off!

Sure thing! That issue, I also did the letters page!

No, no, no — that's because with issue #6, *I* signed on as editor!

You know, I *do* seem to remember that

Before yours truly came aboard, the editorial hands kept changing. *Carol Kalish* had given the reins over to her assistant *Peter David* for an issue or two. Then *Lea Sapp*, our other Assistant Direct Sales Manager, edited #5. They all did a great job, but, since we had announced in *MARVEL AGE* #5 that the mag had caught on spectacularly, with readers demanding that we go to a full thirty-two page size —

— then MARVEL AGE would require a full-time editor. Right?

How'd ya guess?

You give me the same speech every night before I leave to go home! Then you usually tell me about how **Jim Shooter** chose you because you have courage, vision, and integrity! I've got the whole thing memorized!

Ahem! Don't forget who *gave* ya this job, *Lever*!

Yes, sir.

Anyway, as I was saying, it was with issue #6 that we inaugurated our new cover and page design, with an emphasis on spotlighting artwork and articles about the very creators of our Marvel superstars. That issue, we featured an interview wherein *Walt Simonson* detailed his upcoming plans for *THOR*!

Y'know something, **Jim**? I was in a comics specialty shop the other day, and the owner told me that all of the issues of **THOR** that **Walt** has written and drawn have sold out!

Of course! It's because we ran that great article on him! *MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE* does it again! It was with the very next issue, #7, that we went to the full thirty-two page size and began the New Talent Department!

I remember that issue, too — because it came out the month when everyone was so up to his or her ears in new projects that we couldn't report 'em all! Unfortunately, some of those projects couldn't make it to fruition, for one reason or another

SHADOW MASTERS . . . and **Howard the Duck** is on hold. But such phenomenal ideas as a new **S.H.I.E.L.D.** series and a **MACHINE MAN Limited Series** are still percolating away in the mighty Marvel coffeepot of creativity!

Say, that reminds me, *Mark*, whatever became of the new *MACHINE MAN Limited Series*? We ran an article on *Machine Man* that issue!

Glad you asked, Jim! **MACHINE MAN** will be appearing, but it's been delayed to give the *inker* the extra time to work on it! Turns out that **MACHINE MAN**'s going to be inked by one of the most dedicated craftsmen in the industry. It's a secret . . . but we can reveal that he's good — very good — and very meticulous! He's a famous comics artist and . . . ator, the last person you'd expect to see inking a book which stars a robot! He's working on it right now, and when it finally comes out . . . hoo boy!

In that same issue, we announced *THE DAZZLER Graphic Novel*! That's another project that had to be delayed, but will be coming out in January! Now let's move on to *MARVEL AGE #8*. Anything to update there, *Mark*? *Mark*?

Sorry, Jim, I was just . . . studying this rendering of **Dazzler** by **Frank Springer**! That's one gorgeous gal!

Control yourself! Geez, the people I have to work with . . .

Ok, then. If we must, **MARVEL AGE #8** was the issue in which **Stan Lee** and **Jim Shooter** told all in a full-length interview. The New Talent department featured **Rod Whigham**, to whom we've had a tremendous response, and who will be drawing a **DOCTOR STRANGE** story. That was also the issue in which, in our never ending battle to come up with a title for that fun/slug-ridden letters page, we premiered Mark Duncan's Page!" We thought it would be fun to actually follow up on one fan's rather immodest suggestion that we title the column after *him* — and fun it was! Until everybody and his brother wrote in and wanted us to do the same for *them*!

I remember that!

Also in that issue, we reported that our ever lovin' leader, **Stan Lee**, was in the hospital for minor surgery. Well, **Stan**'s back in perfect health, and he thanks all of . . . who sent cards, letters and flowers.

In *MARVEL AGE #9*, the letters page got even crazier when everybody let us know that we misspelled "*ROM*" as "*RON!*" But I think we took care of *that* little affair quite well.

Say, **Salicrup!** In **MARVEL AGE #9**, we ran a full-length article on the debut of a new **SUB-MARINER** Limited Series! Now I hear that it, too, has been delayed! What's the story?

Simply that penciller *Bob Budiansky* has been so blamed busy with his duties as full-time editor, that he needs the extra time to make the series work!

But I was really looking forward to all the intriguing character developments that **Namor** will undergo, as well as the breathtaking portrayal of the Atlantean culture.

Well, you'll *get* it — it's just been rescheduled, that's all! Boy, you comics fans are so impatient!

Whaddaya mean, "*You*" comics . . . *You're* as big a Marvel maniac . . . least of us put together, Jim-Man! *You* were the one who practically drooled over those gorgeous pencils by **Paul Neary** that we ran that issue —

Sure! That guy's taking over *CAPTAIN AMERICA*, and it's gonna be great! And *Bo Hampton*, as we also announced that issue, is going to be making *MOON KNIGHT* more . . . mystically . . . mind-bending than ever before! But we already *know* that!

That issue, we also ran **Jay Boyar**'s article discussing how **the Silver Surfer** has gone Hollywood, appearing in the hit movie "Breathless!" Jay reported that rumors linked **the Surfer** romantically with **Brooke Shields** and **Morgan Fairchild**.

Any update on that, *Mark*?

We got ahold of **the Surfer** and he

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said. "We're just good friends."

MARVEL AGE #10 was our *STAR WARS* issue. We announced the debut of Epic's newest title, *SIX FROM SIRIUS*, and Tom, to form, misspelled it "*SERIUS*."

Aw, get serious!

Also in that awesome ish, *Bob Sodaro* reported on the special issues of *POWER MAN AND IRON FIST* that *Archie* [illegible] is writing. Now *PM & IF* has a new writer, and we'll reveal his/her name next issue! Are you [illegible]?

[illegible] range [illegible] arcs! At the end of the stories in the April cover date books, everybody will be popping off somewhere without any explanation! And then, in the May cover-date books, they'll all come back. No change.

Right! But it wasn't until issue #11 that we let the cat out of the bag, and hinted where they'll be going! That's the story behind the most ambitious maxi-series ever attempted! It's undergone a title change from *COSMIC CHAMPIONS* to *MARVEL SUPER HEROES: THE SECRET WARS*. I poked my head inside *Jim Shooter*'s office just yesterday to ask how the writing chores were coming along. He showed me piles and piles of notes! This is gonna be *one* spectacular saga, and it'll go on sale in January!

That was nostalgia indeed. Now here we are in MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE #12. Betcha

Of course I did! Don't forget! It's under my forthright steerage that *MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE* has come this far!

Ahem!

With your help, of course.

Thank you!

And with the help of such stalwarts as *Rob Simpson*, *Bob Sodaro*, *Sandy Hausler*, *Warren Reece*, and the many talented people who've written, drawn, and slaved over this magazine with us! Not to mention the support of *Stan*, *Jim*, the entire Marvel Bullpen and our real editors — the Marvel readers!

Oh, Jim! There's one thing we left out. We promised them at the beginning of the article that we'd detail all the staff changes that have taken place since MARVEL AGE #1.

I was dreading this.

Ready?

Ok! Here we go! First, *Tom DeFalco* was promoted to *Executive Editor*! *Danny Fingeroth* was promoted to Editor, taking over the *SPIDER-MAN* titles from *Tom*! *Bob DeNatale* came aboard as *Danny*'s Assistant Editor! *Eliot Brown*, who served a term as *Louise Jones*'s Assistant Editor when *Danny* was promoted, [illegible] back serving with *Tom*! *Ann Nocenti* is now *Louise Jones*'s Assistant [illegible] *Carl Potts*' Assistant Editor is *Jim Massara*! *Laurie Sutton* has been promoted to Associate Editor of [illegible]! *Margaret Clark* has become Assistant Editor at Epic, and *Craig Anderson* has replaced *Margaret* as Editorial Assistant to *Lynn Cohen*!

Furthermore, some of the editorial responsibilities have shifted around! Ann Nocenti is editing THE HULK. Eliot Brown is editing INDIANA JONES. Bob Budiansky is editing DAREDEVIL, and if there's anything we've left out, we won't be able to sleep tonight!

Our new typesetters are *Jay Zilber* and *Brenda Mings*, replacing *Nancy Dodaro* who's moved back to her native Chicago. Welcome, also, *Robbin Brosterman*, EPIC ILLUSTRATED's new art director.

Starting next issue — a series of articles detailing the developments of the Marvel Age itself — the era inaugurated with THE FANTASTIC FOUR, and leading up to the present day! A year by year survey that you won't want to miss!

Well, it's time to say "see you next issue," Mark.

Ok. See you next issue, Mark.

Y'know, one of these days, I'm going to have to get a new assistant.

HEARTBURST THE GRAPHIC NOVEL

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by D. Jon Zimmerman

First came **EPIC** — Marvel's innovative magazine of provocative illustrated stories — then came the EPIC Line of Comics, a whole new group of top quality special-format comic magazines done by the most exciting talents of today. And *now* comes **THE EPIC GRAPHIC NOVEL**!

Just as you might suspect from the House of Ideas, Marvel presents a very special project from one of the best creators in the industry, **Rick Veitch**!

HEARTBURST is the title and it only begins to describe the magnitude of this exciting 48-page graphic novel. **HEARTBURST** is a total labor of love for Rick, who wrote, penciled, inked and colored the whole book! The results of Rick's work have caused a tidal wave of excitement to sweep through EPIC's office and spill over into the rest of the bullpen!

Rick, of course, is a regular contributor to **EPIC** magazine. Just recently, **EPIC** featured the final installment of Rick's acclaimed

ABRAXAS AND THE EARTHMAN an epic all its own running one solid year's worth of issues. Rick is a much sought after talent and has been a regular contributor to other illustrated fiction magazines. In addition he collaborated with **Steve Bissette** on the comics adaptation of **Steven Spielberg's** comedy movie **1941**.

So now you know the man behind the story. But what is the story? Associate Editor **Jo DuffY** smiled when we asked her. She began by telling how it all came about.

"Rick was a real positive reader response to Rick's **ABRAXAS** story. It was then that Rick broached the subject of **HEARTBURST** to Editor **Archie Goodwin**.

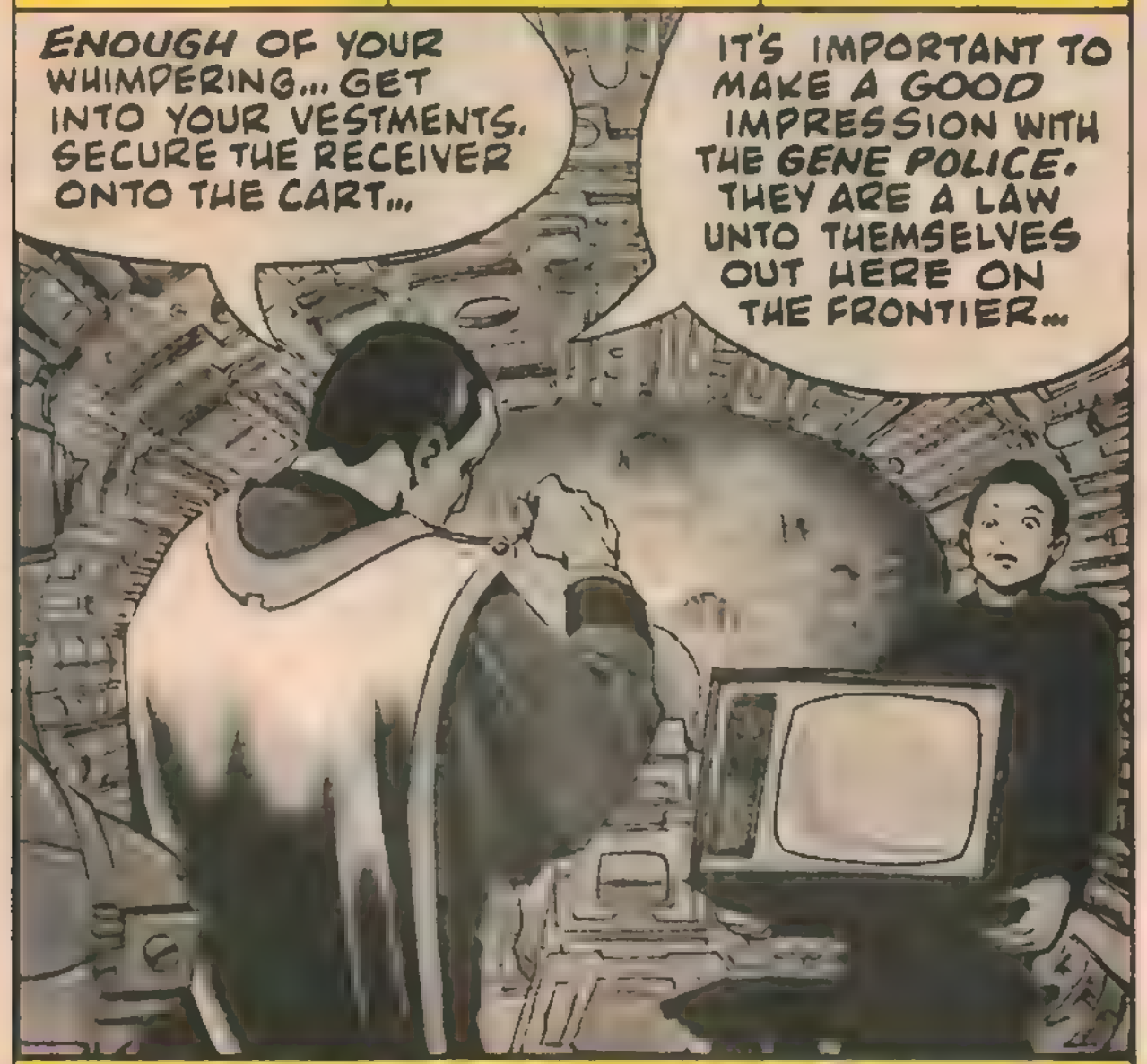
"Archie was looking around for a special story. One that could possibly be used as a graphic novel."

Conferences ensued. Archie liked Rick's idea. He definitely wanted it for **EPIC**. But the magazine itself had such a formidable line-up of excellent stories already that Archie couldn't promise it to Rick's fans. And Archie knew that it would be unfair to let **HEARTBURST** wait such many years to be printed in **EPIC**.

There was only one answer. A Graphic Novel. Archie went to **Jim Shooter** and told him of Rick's project and how he felt it should be published. If there is one thing that Jim Shooter knows, it's an excellent story. And he told Archie to go for it!

With that kind of green light, Rick started with a vengeance. Even so, it was no fast task. "It took Rick about a year to finish this project," acknowledged Jo.

HEARTBURST is a science-fiction romance," continued Jo. "The setting is in a faraway, future


ENOUGH OF YOUR WHIMPERING... GET INTO YOUR VESTMENTS. SECURE THE RECEIVER ONTO THE CART...
IT'S IMPORTANT TO MAKE A GOOD IMPRESSION WITH THE GENE POLICE. THEY ARE A LAW UNTO THEMSELVES OUT HERE ON THE FRONTIER...

Television plays a big role in HEARTBURST.

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Heartburst © 1983 by Rick Veitch All rights reserved

world which has been colonized by Earthlings. The colonists have completely oppressed the native, humanoid population." The set-up is intriguing, that when asked for more details, Jo replied, "We feel the story is unique — special. We can't say too much more because Rick's plot contains so many interlocking elements that telling details out of context would ruin the story." But Jo did agree to reveal the hero's name, **Sunoco Firestone**. And, he has an uncle, **Xerox Firestone**. Unusual names — the names of companies and products from America.

"There's a reason for that," says Jo. "You see, the religion, morality and culture of the settlers from earth has been shaped by 1950's television broadcasts which have traveled through space and are being received on the world."

That in itself would create a highly charged situation, considering all that happened during that period of earth's history. But, for the hero, matters get even more complicated, for Jo revealed that **Sunoco Firestone** falls in love with a native woman, **Maia**. "**Sunoco** is a young man who learns a lot about himself and his society. He does a lot of growing up in the story. The man he is at the beginning of the novel is not the man he is at its end."

Now the facts are known. Only one question yet remains, when will it appear? **HEARTBURST** will be shipped February 21, 1984 and be on sale at selected outlets by the end of that month ●

FRANKENSTEIN

Illustration © 1983 by Berni Wrightson All rights reserved

by **Mark Lerer**

We'll say it in just two names: **Frankenstein! Berni Wrightson!**

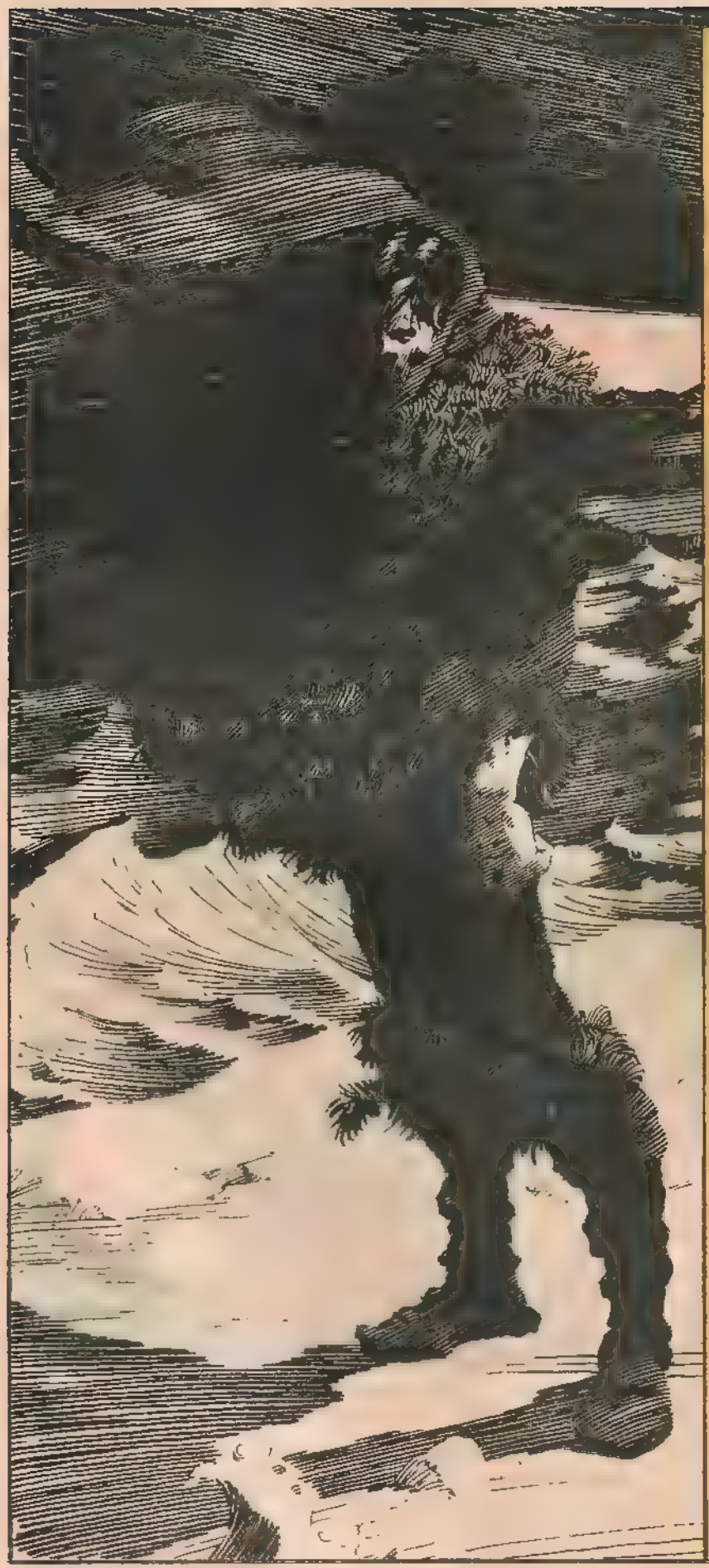
That's right. Marvel is putting out an edition starring the most famous monster of them all, illustrated by the most requested artist of the day! This is not an adaptation, but the original classic by **Mary Shelley**, lovingly and meticulously illustrated by **Berni Wrightson**, presented in a deluxe edition that you'll want to keep and enjoy for years to come!

Berni Wrightson is the most sought after artist in the twin fields of comic art and fantasy illustration. His comics work in the seventies set the standard for a generation of comic artists. **Berni** has drawn every genre from horror to adventure to humor for every major publisher during his noted career. Comics fans pay top dollar for reprints of **Berni**'s old work. But everyone's been clamoring for *new* work from **Berni**, especially in his beloved field of horror, and now Marvel has the distinction of presenting it to you!

Here's how the **Frankenstein** project came about. Back in 1976, **Berni**

Wrightson had achieved great success in the field. He was in a position that all artists work for and few achieve — the time to devote himself to a single project of his own choosing, not having to please anyone other than his own discriminating eye. For a subject, **Berni** chose the paradigmatic horror story — the original classic that began the genre as we know it, **Frankenstein**. He started a set of pen and ink illustrations of the text, pursuing the intricate and delicate linework that

Illustration © 1983 by Berni Wrightson. All rights reserved.



has made **Wrightson** the master of pictorial mood. The project took him seven years to complete.

When **Berni** was finished, he had a complete set of over forty magnificent illustrations. Having achieved great stature in the profession, **Berni** had first choice of any publisher he wished. He came to the biggest and the best, the house that publishes his "Interstellar Toybox" in the pages of **DREADSTAR**, Marvel! And how could Marvel resist being the foremost publisher of original **Berni Wrightson** material today?

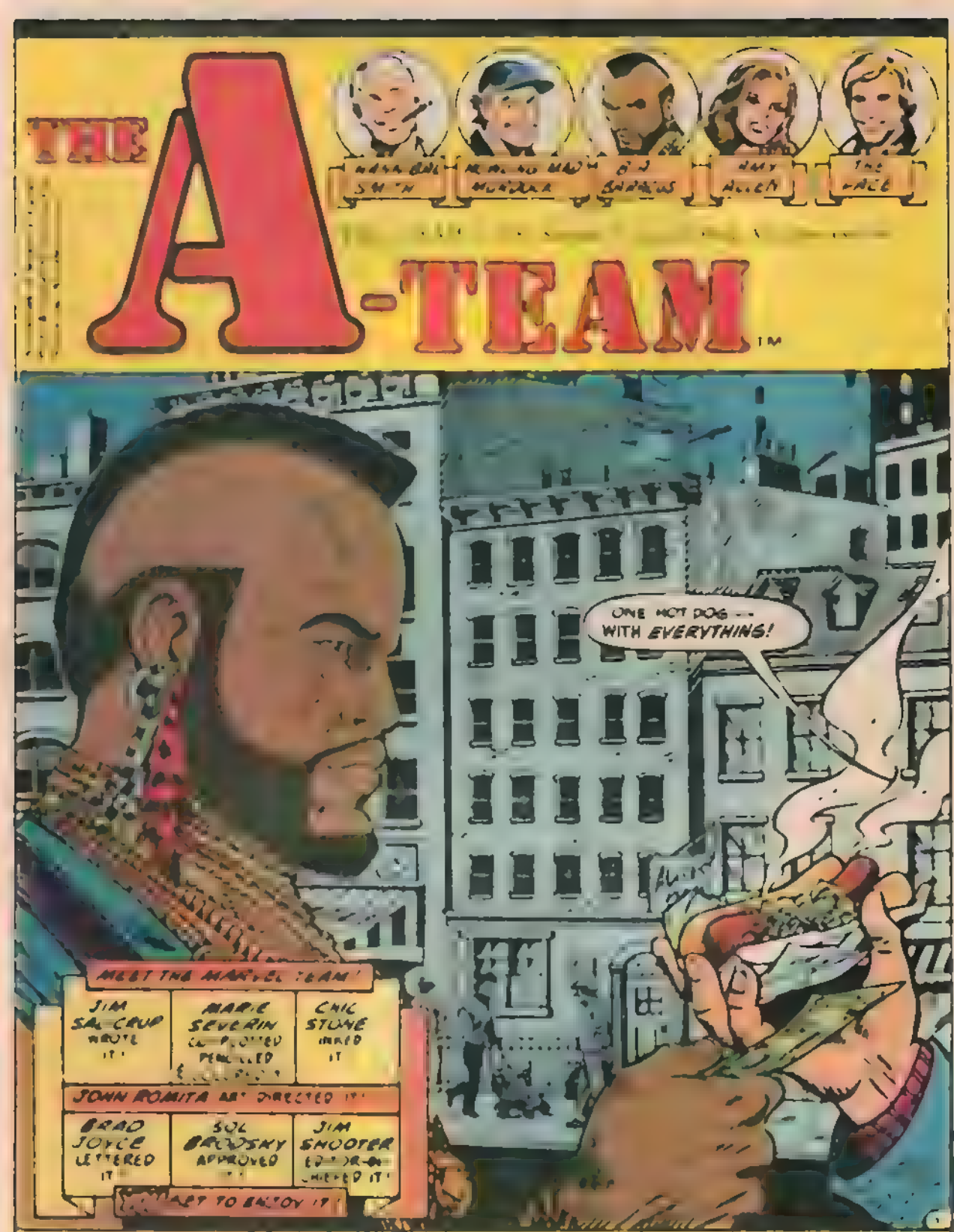
Jim Shooter gave **Archie Goodwin** the assignment to edit a collector's edition of **Frankenstein** to showcase **Berni**'s illustrations. **Archie**'s first step was to assemble a staff of talented top professionals who would treat the art and story with care and respect. **Stephen King**, author of **Cujo**, **The Shining**, **Carrie**, and **Creepshow**, wrote a forward especially for the edition. **EPIC ILLUSTRATED**'s talented new art director, **Robbin Brosterman** designed a striking cover jacket, incorporating a wraparound **Wrightson** illo, executed separately from the interior illustrations. Associate Editors **Jo Duffy** and **Laurie Sutton** lent their aid in polishing the package. No detail was overlooked in preparing this handsome and definitive volume.

The completed volume contains close to forty-eight black-and-white plates, as well as endpapers and cover illustration. Priced at $8.95, Marvel's **Frankenstein** is a trade paperback now available in Direct Sales Outlets and bookstores everywhere. In addition, Dodd Mead will publish two special collectors' editions, one, a hardcover priced at $19.95, and the other, a leatherbound limited edition which lists at approximately sixty dollars.

When the most respected professionals in a given field are also the biggest fans, they generate an excitement that shows itself clearly in the finished product. In this case, they have collaborated on a once-in-a-lifetime event, the marriage of **Mary Shelley**'s literary genius and **Berni Wrightson**'s artistic achievement. The terror, the suspense, and the thrill of **Frankenstein** is now forever preserved in one deluxe book.

It had to be. From Marvel.

Illustration © 1983 by Berni Wrightson All rights reserved


THE A-TEAM™
ONE HOT DOG — WITH EVERYTHING!
MEET THE MARVEL TEAM!
JIM SALICRUP WROTE IT!
MARIE SEVERIN PENCILLED IT!
CHIC STONE INKED IT!
JOHN ROMITA JR. DIRECTED IT!
BRAD JOYCE LETTERED IT!
SOL BRODSKY APPROVED IT!
JIM SHOOTER EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OKAYED IT!
SMART TO ENJOY IT!

by Mark Lever

IT'S MY PAL'S TURN NOW! HE'LL HANDLE WHATEVER YOU THROW AT H M AND COME BACK FOR MORE!
I DOUBT IT!
HIS OPPONENT HAS NEVER BEEN DEFEATED!
SEND IN THE SUMO!
AS THE GIGANTIC WRESTLER STEPS INTO THE ARENA B.A. DOESN'T EVEN BLINK!
IS IT BRAVERY? A DESPERATE BLUFF? OR JUST STUPIDITY?
HANNIBAL WONDERS IF EVEN B.A. KNOWS FOR SURE!
THE A-TEAM © 1983 Stephen J. Cannell Prod. All rights reserved

And all the characters, **John 'Hannibal' Smith**, **'Howling Mad' Murdock**, **Amy Amanda Allen**, **Templeton Peck**, known as **the Face**, and **Mr. T's B. A. Baracus**, battle through action and peril with a tongue-in-cheek charm that makes them prime candidates for Marvel Madness.

Indeed, **THE A-TEAM**'s style and sense of humor drew **MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE**'s own **Jim Salicrup** to head-write the book. "I'm a fan of TV producer **Steven Cannell**, who co-created **THE A-TEAM**," says **Jim**. "Like **Cannell**'s other well-known creations, **The Rockford Files** and **The Greatest American Hero**, **The A-Team** gives you fast-paced action and suspense with heroes that don't take themselves too seriously. I love that. The banter, the repartee, the in-jokes — it's the same thing I like about **THE FANTASTIC FOUR**! And, like **the F. F.** and all Marvel characters, **Hannibal**, **Murdock**, **Amy**, **Face**, and **B. A.** are all vulnerable. They're human, they make mistakes . . . and sometimes their plans backfire! It's no coincidence that during one episode last season, **Murdock** was seen reading an issue of **THE FANTASTIC FOUR**." Check out the second issue of **THE A-TEAM** comic for a shot of him perusing the World's Greatest Comic Magazine — you should have no trouble finding it!

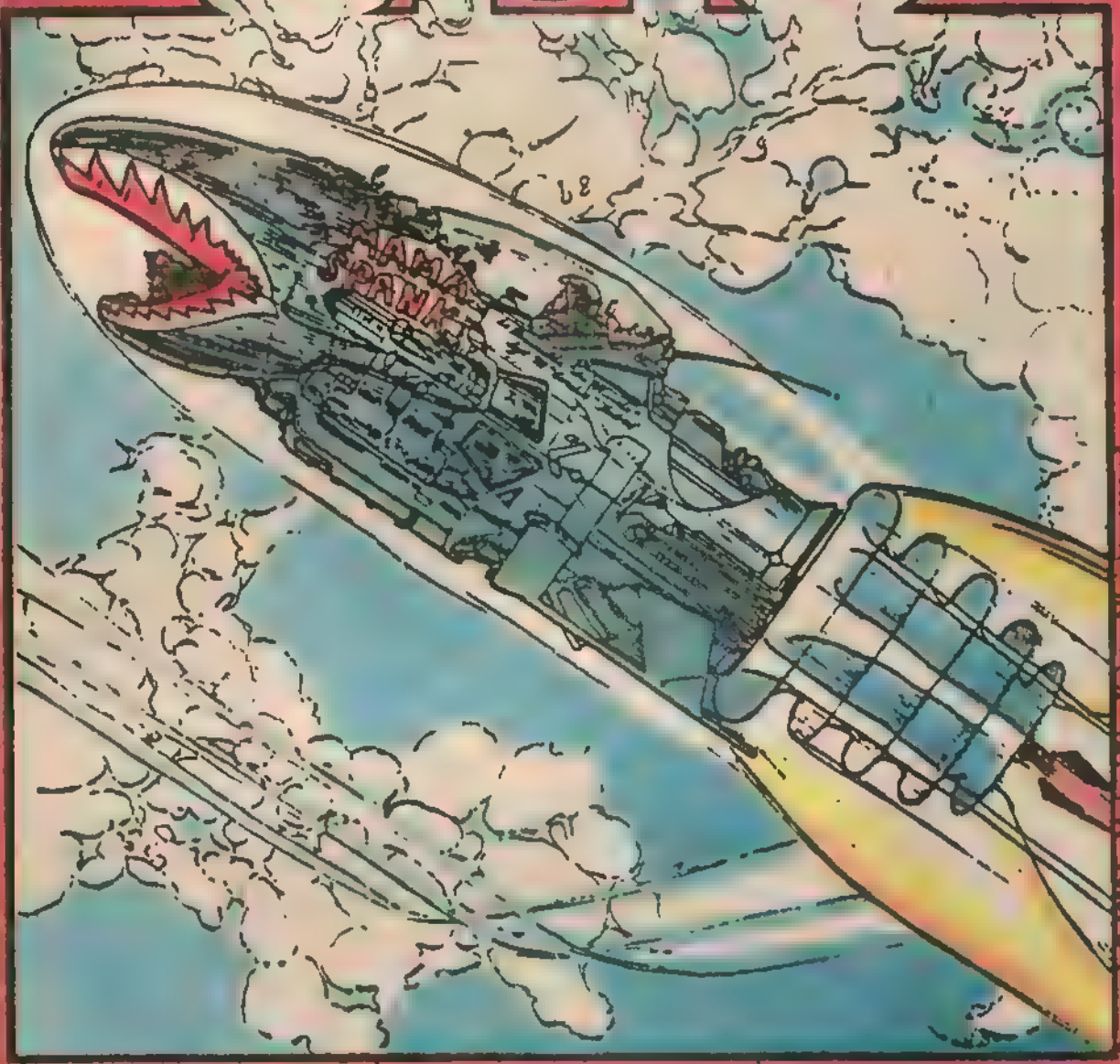
THE FLIGHT OF THE REDBIRD!
WELL B.A., WE FOLLOWED THE RENDEZVOUS INSTRUCTIONS THAT AMY AMANDA ALLEN PASSED ON TO US FROM OUR NEW "MYSTERY EMPLOYER!"
SO WHAT'S YOUR FANCY COMPASS TELL US, HANNIBAL? WE IN TH' RIGHT PLACE OR NOT?
THE SUN IS HOT ENOUGH TO FRY YOUR BRAINS, AND THOSE TWO ARE ARGUING!
I'M A NUT FOR NEVADA FACE!
YOU'RE A NUT ANYWHERE, MURDOCK!
THE A-TEAM © 1983 Stephen J. Cannell Prod. All rights reserved

Jim conceived two self-contained episodes for **THE A-TEAM**, completely faithful to the style and pace of the TV show. "Diamonds Are a Thief's Best Friend," written by **Jim**, co-plotted, penciled, and colored by **Marie Severin**, and inked by **Chic Stone**, kicks off the series. This story, about a diamond operation which hires **the A-Team** to get out of a tough scrape, has a theme of "old friends —" **Jim** actually based two of the featured supporting cast on real-life old friends of his.

The second issue, titled "Who Kidnapped Kuramoto," is about the three Kuramoto brothers, owners of a video games company, who hire **the A-Team** to locate their missing father. You'll meet a strange cult in this one — and thrill to kung fu action as **B. A. Baracus** takes on a giant sumo wrestler! Adds **Salicrup**, "Remember how, on the old **Mission: Impossible** shows, a standard ploy to infiltrate the enemy stronghold was to have the heroes masquerade as telephone repair men? Well, in this story, you'll see a twist on that old routine — and you won't believe the results!" **Jim Mooney** penciled, and **Joe Giella** inked. The third issue, written and penciled by **Alan Kupperberg**, tells of an aging cowboy actor named **Wild Jack Munroe**, who's out to steal a super spy plane. It's called "Flight of the Red Bird," it's inked by a talented newcomer named **Brian Moore**, and it's got action — action — action!

It all happens *now*! The first issue ships on November 22, on sale December 13. The second issue ships December 20, on sale January 10. The third issue ships January 17, on sale February 7. As a special bonus, variety stories across the country will carry all three issues bagged together in a special Marvel Comics Package! To top it all off, if you respond enthusiastically to **THE A-TEAM Limited Series**, we'll go ahead and make it a regular ongoing comic! As somebody we all know would say . . . I pity the fool who doesn't buy . . . **THE A-TEAM**! ●

epic



Starstruck © 1983 by Michael Wm. Kaluta. All rights reserved.

by Mark Lerer

What is Epic?

It's ***EPIC ILLUSTRATED****, the Marvel Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction.* By presenting a complete range of visual experiences in every issue from full-color painting to delicate pencil work, from novel-length serials to short stories, **EPIC ILLUSTRATED** has redefined comics. By publishing the uncompromised best, from **Barry Windsor-Smith** to **Richard Corben**, from **Ken Steacy** and **Dean Motter's** "The Sacred and The Profane" to **John** and **Laura Lakey's** "Apocrypha," **EPIC ILLUSTRATED** has become the leading showcase for original graphic adventure.

Take, for example, **EPIC ILLUSTRATED's** acclaimed "Marada The She-Wolf." Written by **Chris Claremont** and illustrated by **John Bolton**, this continuing series tells the thrilling and exotic story of **Marada**, swordswoman for hire, guardian to a fortress during the time of **Augustus Caesar**. Set against the late Roman Empire, **Marada's** adventures against wizards, demons, and thieves will take you to Africa, the Middle East, and Europe. Beautifully written, brilliantly drawn, "Marada" combines elegant realism with unparalleled wonder and fantasy.

It's the Epic Comics Line. It's a simple idea. Let the finest writers and artists create their own characters, develop their own concepts, and publish the result on high-quality paper in a handsome deluxe format. The results? **Jim Starlin's DREADSTAR. Steve Englehart's COYOTE. THE** [illegible] **SIRIUS** Limited Series.

Here's what's confirmed for 1984. **VOID INDIGO**, written by **Steve Gerber** and drawn by **Val Mayerik**, premiering in a Graphic Novel, and starring in an ongoing series. **TIME-**

Oedi © 1983 by James P Starlin All rights reserved

staff shares **Archie's** commitment: Associate Editors **Mary Jo Duffy** and **Laurie Sutton**, Assistant Editor **Margaret Clark**, and Art Director **Robbin Brosterman**

It's the very best in comics. A constant, boundless variety of fresh concepts, access to the widest range of printing and engraving tech-

love, mix regularly in every issue of **EPIC ILLUSTRATED** and every Epic comic

Epic will take you places you've never dreamed of. ●

NOTES FROM NOTS!

Send your letters to MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE c/o Marvel Comics Group, 387 Park Avenue South, New York, New York 10016

Dear MARVEL AGE,

I don't understand you guys. You have hundreds of super heroes on the east coast with the vast majority in New York, a few in the midwest, and maybe one or two in California. But go to the North West and what do you find? Nothing.

We have everything any super hero or super villain would want to defend, destroy, or enjoy. We have Army bases, Navy bases, Air Force bases, nuclear power plants, nuclear waste sites, scientific labs, massive dams, big bridges, big cities, freeways, skyscrapers, airports, seaports, factories, mountains, volcanoes, desert, beaches, rivers, lakes, ocean, forests, and, believe it or not . . . people!

All in all, the North West should be a super hero haven! Where are all the super heroes who would protect all of the above, and all the villains who would threaten them? The only time I remember this region in a comic was when **Godzilla** paid a visit to Seattle and **SHIELD** came here to push him out. **Why don't you send somebody up here? I hope this letter has enlightened you to the plight of those who have to read about New York City and Chicago all the time.**

Dain Jones
6522 57 N. E.
Seattle, WA 98115

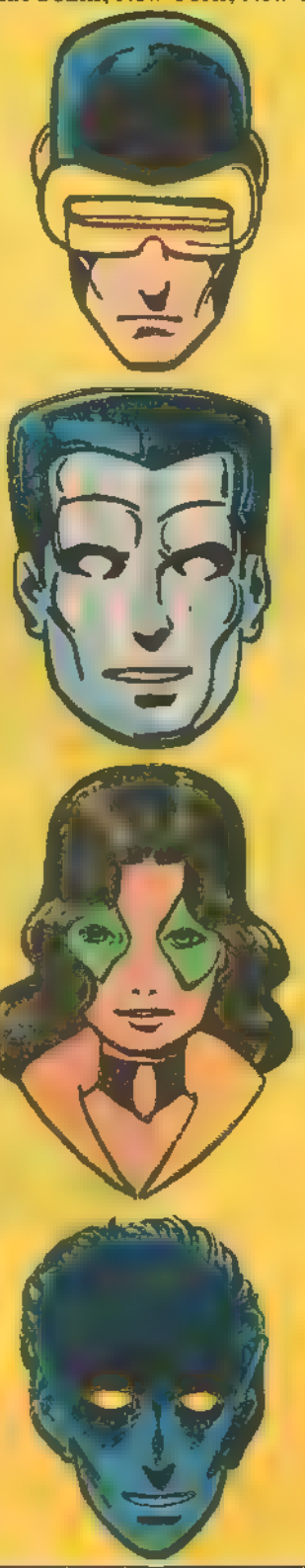
Your letter has come at a perfect time, Dain, because *the New Defenders* are moving to New Mexico! It may not be exactly the North West, but as you say, there will be plenty of action and valuable things to defend in that part of the United States! And don't forget *Alpha Flight*, whose range of operation extends all the way from the St. Lawrence Seaway to the Yukon and British Columbia!

Dear Guys,

I demand a Limited Series starring **Colossus**, my favorite **X-Man**! By the way, **Colossus** always says "Tovarisch." What does that mean?

Chris Rychik
Reading, MA 01867

Will you settle for a Limited Series starring two other *X-Men*, namely *ARIEL AND WOLVERINE*? It goes on sale soon! And "tovarisch" is Russion for "old good friend." Now if there are no further questions, let's move on to a letter of unbridled praise . . .



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Dear MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE,

I think all the work you're doing on your books is great! Everything's great! The writing's great. The art is great. So keep up the great work that you do.

Steven Matterazzo
Hubbard Road
Higganum, CT 06441

We love getting letters like that! Thanks, Steve!

Dear MARVEL AGE,

The actual reason I'm writing is to complain. I have noticed a trend in Marvel letter columns. On a good book like **DREADSTAR**, you print intelligent critical letters, but in the letter column of **INDIANA JONES**, for example issue #11, every single letter is favorable! What's more, they don't even represent the majority opinion of the readership. Every letter column should represent the readers, instead of being an advertisement in disguise. I think you owe all of us an apology for having to suffer through bad letter columns.

Bet this won't get published.

Chris Farnell
Corvalis, Oregon

Oh, the old "bet this won't get published" trick, eh? Well, we're not gonna fall for it! As you can see, we print samples of mail both complimentary *and* critical, Chris. As for the other titles' lettercols that you mentioned, rest

assured that we take great pains at Marvel to be fair and representative of the readers' response. Honest. Ok?

Dear **Jim** and **Mark**,

I think I've come up with a very good idea. Many foreign nations have common super enemies. The leaders of such nations would devise a plan whereby super heroes would band together to occasionally defend Eurasia and Africa. I think it might make an excellent, extended Limited Series. Thanks for considering my suggestion, even though this letter won't be printed.

Robbie Smariga
5800 Stonehouse Ct.
Frederick, MD 21701

Wise guy, huh? Another "Even though this letter won't get printed," routine! Actually, we think your suggestion is excellent, and don't be *too* surprised if you see something like it actually happen somewhere, sometime in the Marvel Universe soon!

Dear Marvel,

The store where I usually buy my comics sold out of a recent issue of **THE DEFENDERS** on a day when I didn't have enough money to pick it up. Can I purchase back issues from you directly? Please tell me how I can get a hold of this comic.

Tim O'Donnell
1214 Westmoorland
Ypsilanti, MI

We don't stock back issues ourselves, Tim. But here's what you *can* do. Check out the advertisement for the "Marvel Super Mart" which runs in almost all of our regular titles. It's a listing of comics specialty shops which generally *do* have back issues. Perhaps you'll find one listed in your part of the country. Hope we've been of some help! And write us when you do find that comic you're looking for, ok? We love a happy ending!

Dear Marvel Agers,

After reading **Tony Anderson's** letter in **MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE #8**, I grabbed a pen and started to write this letter! The word is — *do* a satire comic! How about a revival of **NOT BRAND ECCH**? Possible? Hope so. I enjoyed that comic very much, as I did **Stan Lee's MONSTERS TO LAUGH WITH** and **MONSTER MADNESS**. *Please* do a satire mag!

Another suggestion would be to do a Limited Series starring Marvel heroes of the 1930's and 1940's, either original stories or golden age reprints. Well, til **Professor X** gets a haircut, Make Mine Marvel!

Dennis Shumate
Fort Lauderdale, FL

Dear **Jim** and **Mark**,

Paul Smith did a great **Conan** cartoon in **MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE #8**. I loved your first issue's "Conan the Comedian," and died over this issue's "Conan the Commuter!"

Irving Forbush is a great corner symbol. Keep him! And please bring back **NOT BRAND ECCH**, or have a **Forbush-Man** Limited Series!

Bart Jarmusch
222 Briar Crk. Rd.
Greer, SC 29651

For all of you who want us to do a satire mag, or revive N.B.E. (as it was called!), we're gonna let you in on a secret! *MARVEL AGE* editorial assistant *Mark Lerer* would really love to reprint the "Origin of Forbush-Man" by *Stan Lee* and *Jack Kirby*, right here in these very pages — but Editor *Jim Salicrup* says no! It's up to *you* all to settle the argument! How many of you want to see it? Hands?

Dear **MARVEL AGE** Dudes,

An **X-MEN / MICRONAUTS** team-up? Waah-tik-hoo! Goddess be praised! Dalan and Sepsis! Vas? Hoary hosts of the worldmind! Cripes! A speech (from guess who?)! Way ta go, o' course, eh? By the white wolf! Ah like it, don't you, sugah? I want to throw something... like, ah,...confetti!

Get the message?

David Levine
156 E. 89th St.
New York, NY 10028

Bred in the body banks! Oy!

Dear **MARVEL AGE**,

I like the idea of publishing those three extra issues of **THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE**. There's one further issue that I think you should publish, namely, *The Darkhold Book*, with translation. This could be an invaluable aid to those of your writers who include references to it in their stories. It might also explain who the **Faltine** are, the **Moons of Munnipor**, **Cytorrak**, and so on.

John L. Roberson
1120 Parkway Drive
Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464

If we published a translation of *The Darkhold Book*, John, then everyone who read it would become a corrupt agent of the demon Chthon. We couldn't let that happen.

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Dear **MARVEL AGE** creative team.

Thought I'd write a few comments about this mag in general. Your covers have generally been good, and very eye-catching. Somehow, you've managed not to cramp the artwork when announcing the contents on the cover. The biggest design problem with issue #6 was in the Coming Attractions section, which looked a bit cramped.

I would like to see longer interviews. Would devoting a third of an issue to a full-length interview be asking too much? I'd also like to see features such as a crossword puzzle and a monthly pin-up. What do you say? Finally, your coverage of Limited Series and new titles has been very informative and well written.

Are Editor **Salicrup's** facial features really so horrible that he has to wear a mask and a hood?

Thorhallur B.
Dalbrekka 4
Kopavogur 200
ICELAND

In answer to your last question — yes!

Although his face can make strong men faint, Editor *Salicrup* re-designed the Coming Attractions section several issues ago, making it more graphically striking and easier to read. We hope you've liked the new look!

Thanks for your comments on the rest of the issue, Thorhallur! (Pssst — just kidding about *Jim's* face. He's really quite a handsome devil. Ok, Jim? Can I have my paycheck now?)

Dear **Jim** and the gang,

I think **MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE** is a super buy for a quarter. But why isn't it listed on the Mighty Marvel Checklist each month? And why don't you print the Mighty Marvel Checklist in **MARVEL AGE**? Also, I'd like to see a list of fans' favorite comics, maybe you could call that "M. A. Picks!" As long as you keep producing **MARVEL AGE** like it is, I'll keep buying it!

Jason Cochran
Sudbury, MA

Starting with issue #13, we will be running the Bullpen Bulletin page, which of course features the Mighty Marvel Checklist, in every issue of *MARVEL AGE*!

Folks,

I enjoy all the articles you run, and certainly enjoy the New Talent section, but what I really think **MARVEL AGE** should run are articles for fans, for example, on how to get letters printed, how to start fan clubs, and other topics of that nature.

I'd also like to see the editors' columns continue, at the very least on a rotating basis. One regular interview, too, would definitely be nice. (Now if you could only increase the number of regular features! But that would probably mean you'd have to triple the size of the book. Oh, well.)

Jay Tuttle
RM #203 Box 51
College Union
Edinboro University
Edinboro, PA 16412

In a recent letter column, we gave some rough guidelines for the best way to get your letters published. As for starting fan clubs and the like, Jay, the best place to start is often at the comics specialty shop where you buy comics. Frequently, that's where "regulars" get to know each other, and compare notes on each other's collections, favorite artists, and so forth. Many comics specialty shops also carry a wide range of fanzines, too, which are always of great interest. But if enough people are interested, we'll run an information-filled article all about fandom in an upcoming issue.

Dear M. A.,

MARVEL AGE #8 was stupendous and colossal and will surely become a collector's item and an instant classic! I'll be honest, guys and gals — I really thought that **Stan Lee** was just a figurehead and that the "infamous" **Jim Shooter** had taken the Marvel Universe and reshaped it according to his own image. After reading the interview with **Stan** and **Jim**, I now see that I was *wrong*! **Jim** and **Stan** may be on different coasts, but they are definitely on the same team. This was one of the best interviews of all time. My hats are off to **Stan**, **Jim**, and **Peter** for bringing us Marvel at its finest! Make Mine Marvel!

Will Rose
487 Sndhl.-Shdy. Grv. Rd.
Carrollton, GA 30117

Dear Marvel,

I am a proud collector of Marvel Comics, and I am worried! Is it true that Marvel will be following its competitor and raising its price to 75¢? If this comes to pass, I may have to change my favorite saying from "Make Mine Marvel" to "Make Mine 60¢!" In any case, keep up the good work, guys.

Brian Kaye
1406 Allenford
Los Angeles, CA 90049

We must reiterate! We said it before, and we can't say it enough — Marvel Comics will remain 60¢ for as long as possible. But we need *your* help! We want to sell more comics rather than up our prices, so get out there and show all your non-comics reading friends what they're missing. Every new reader you help us get means less reason for us to raise our prices. Remember, you can help us keep our comics at 60¢.

Dear **Jim** and Mark,

A good title for your letters page would be "Notes from Nuts." What do you think?

Eric Eramo
100 Colton Rd.
Columbus, OH 43207

We think *you're* nuts, Eric! And *we're* nuts, too, so we used your suggestion for this month's letter column title! ●

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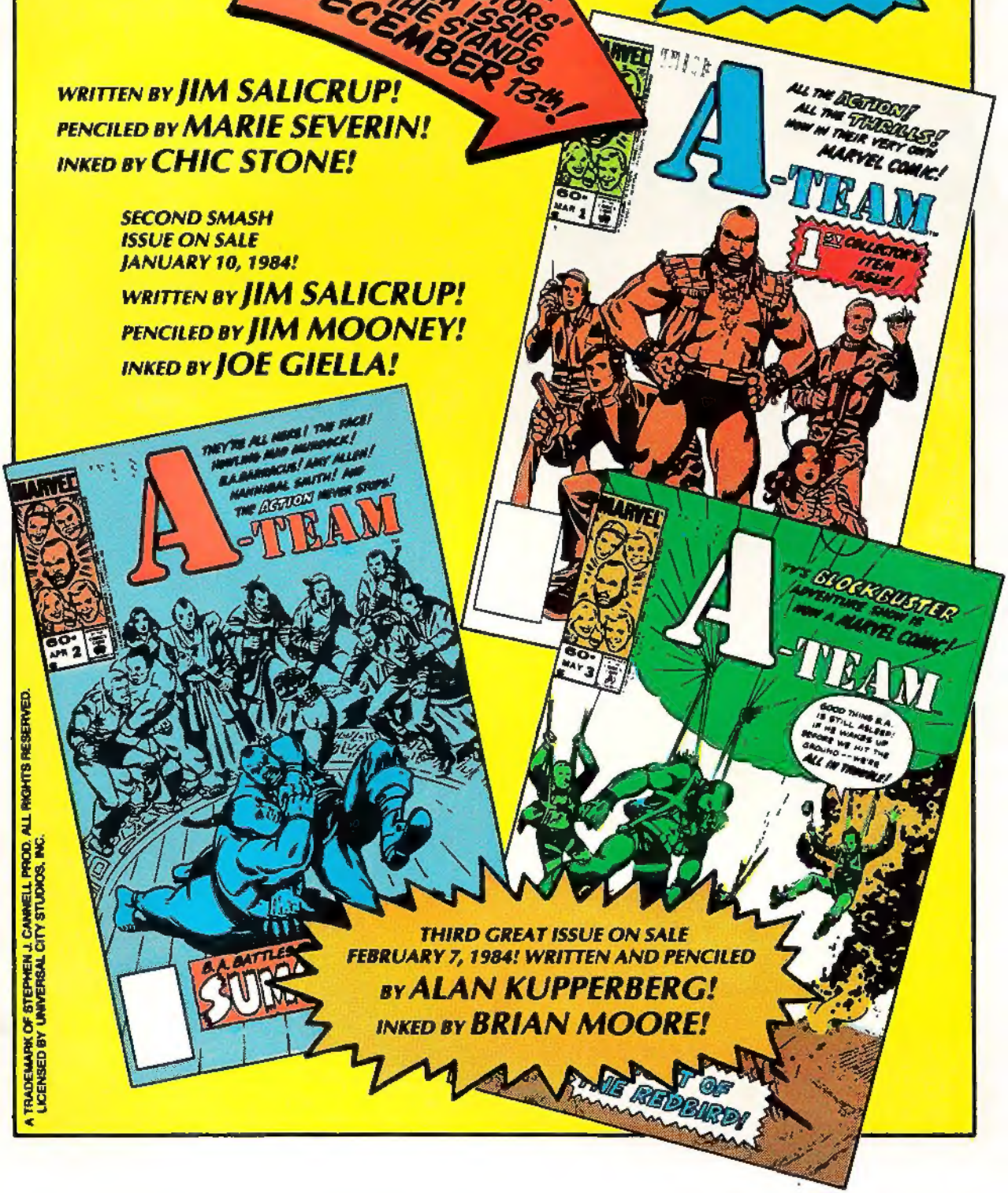
PENCILED BY **MARIE SEVERIN!**
INKED BY **CHIC STONE!**

SECOND SMASH ISSUE ON SALE JANUARY 10, 1984!
WRITTEN BY **JIM SALICRUP!**
PENCILED BY **JIM MOONEY!**
INKED BY **JOE GIELLA!**


MARVEL
A-TEAM
ALL THE ACTION! ALL THE THRILLS! NOW IN THEIR VERY OWN MARVEL COMIC!
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MARVEL
A-TEAM
THEY'RE ALL HERE! THE FACE! HOWLING MAD MURDOCK! B.A. BARRACUS! AMY ALLEN! HANNIBAL SMITH! AND THE ACTION NEVER STOPS!
MARVEL
A-TEAM
IT'S BLOCKBUSTER ADVENTURE SHOW IS NOW A MARVEL COMIC!
GOOD THING B.A. IS STILL ASLEEP! IF HE WAKES UP BEFORE WE HIT THE GROUND - WE'RE ALL IN TROUBLE!
B.A. BATTLES SUR
T OF
IE REDBIRD!

THIRD GREAT ISSUE ON SALE FEBRUARY 7, 1984! WRITTEN AND PENCILED BY **ALAN KUPPERBERG!**
INKED BY **BRIAN MOORE!**

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A MARVEL MAGAZINE

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